

# Commander's Comments

# Historic changes in today's military

As I sat down to start thinking about a topic for my article this month, the first thought that struck me was the number of historic changes that are in our immediate future for the National Guard and our Country. Some of these changes we, as ANG members, have had or will have direct input into the process.

Twenty-five years ago I learned a valuable lesson as I went through the AF Land Survival School, and that is the tremendous impact a positive mental attitude can have in our daily lives. I tell you that to set up my view that each and every one of these changes are something to be excited about and looked upon as an opportunity or a challenge and never an obstacle that blocks our path to greatness.

First of all, there are two changes in the Guard that will alter the very fabric of the interface between our active duty brethren and those of us in the Guard. Lt Gen Craig McKinley, the current Director, Air National Guard, has been confirmed by the Senate to be promoted to General and move into the position of Chief, National Guard Bureau. Is it coincidence that the first four-star in the National Guard's 372 year history is an Airman? Secondly, Lt. Gen. Steven H. Blum, the current CNGB, will be moving to the position of Deputy Commander, United States Northern Command. Both of these promotions were made possible through the hard work of our Congressional staffs, members of the NGAUS, EANGUS, AGAUS, and all of you.

The move of the Air Sovereignty Alert mission from the 127th FW to Toledo has now been officially certified with the successful completion of our first Alert Force Evaluation. The NORAD IG team witnessed the professionalism and expertise of



Col. Mark E. Bartman Commander, 180th Fighter Wing

the 180<sup>th</sup> FW in action, and said unequivocally that we are "Mission-Ready!" In fact, they were so impressed with our Command Post team that they named them Superior Performers. Great job! My thanks go out to each and every Airman who made this transition happen in such a timely and efficient manner. This was truly a TEAM effort.

Next, let's look inward for a moment and reflect on where we've been and where we are going. The Wing is currently in its second deployment to Balad AB, Iraq and our Security Force Squadron is prepping for another deployment to the Middle East. However, in the last eleven years we have deployed five times to Turkey in support of Operation Northern Watch, once to Kuwait to support of Operation Southern Watch, and once to Al Udied AB to support both OIF and OEF. That's a total of nine major combat deployments. And, let's not forget an ORI, UCI, HSI, a 9th AF Stan/Eval inspection, and the many (too numerous to list) smaller deployments all thrown in for good

measure. So, where do we go from here? Current initiatives would suggest that every ANG unit will be associated with the AD in some way. Many ANG fighter units are pursuing some type of an active-associate model. The details are yet to be worked out, but I would not be surprised to see some number of AD Airmen being stationed here at Toledo in the next four to five years.

On a national scene, what a great time to be engaged in our election process. No matter your political affiliation, we will be making history on Nov 4<sup>th</sup> (I'm writing this on Oct 30<sup>th</sup>) when as a country we either elect the first female Vice President or the first African-American President of the United States.

These are exciting times and I ask that you all stay engaged in the many different organizations and processes that are available to each and every one of you. We have financial challenges, we have challenges in the way our ANG will be structured in the future, and we have challenges in meeting our every day requirements for energy consumption, not to mention our challenges with meeting HHQ and COCOM tasking.

On the national level, next year will bring potential changes to our overall Military Strategy as we go through the Quadrennial Defense Review and the new Quadrennial Homeland Defense Review. Our current national strategy says that Homeland Defense is our number one priority. Let's see where we go as our national military establishment wrestles with our countries priorities.

I was at a conference recently with some congressional staffers in attendance. They were trying to

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# FEATURE ADVENTURE RACE A REWARDING CHALLENGE

### By Tech. Sgt. Annette Kornasiewicz Public Affairs

For Tech. Sgt. Tim McCormick, 180th Fighter Wing Security Forces Specialist, hiking the trails at Pickney State Park in Pickney, Michigan is a familiar outing. He and Lt. Col. Todd Audet, 200th Red Horse, had hiked the approximately 15 miles frequently throughout the years with relative ease. However, on October 11, 2008, the hike was more of a sprint, and was peppered with obstacles that even seasoned emergency personnel would find difficult. McCormick, his brother John and Audet participated in MedWar, a non-profit organization that sets up medical adventure races across the country. Teams navigate to different scenarios on foot or by canoe to test their skills and techniques as first responders in a wilderness setting.

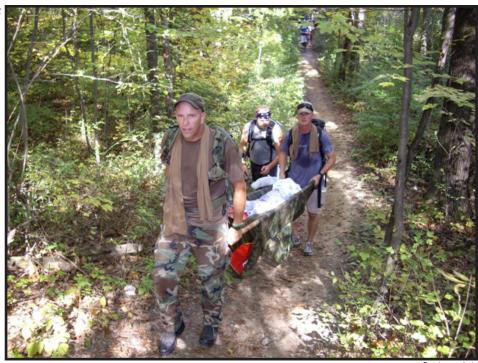
"We get a mix of medical students, faculty and some non-medical people who need to learn to respond quickly in an outdoor setting to a wide array of emergencies," said Dr. David Ledrick, faculty member at St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center, Toledo, Ohio, and MedWar race director. "Your team was the only military team this year."

MedWar began in 1999 as a way medical personnel could get their continuing education units while being challenged with some real-life obstacles and mock medical emergency situations, said Ledrick. Over the years, teams have been made up of a diverse group of



Courtesey photo

From left, Tech. Sgt. Tim McCormick, 180th Security Forces, Lt. Col. Todd Audet, 200th Red Horse, and John McCormick participated in the Midwest MedWar Adventure Race at Pickney State Park, Pickney, Michigan, Oct 11, 2008.



Courtesey photo

Team "Air Force One" evacuates their mannequins victim through the woods at Pickney State Park during the Midwest MedWar Adventure challenge.

participants interested in honing their medical as well as physical skills.

At Pickney State Park for the Midwest MedWar, thirty teams of three lined up at the starting line and were given envelopes with approximate locations in the park where they were to hike to.

"Our scenario, and we called ourselves 'Air Force One,' was to respond to an accident in the woods. There was a forest fire, and the plane that carried the rescue workers went down. We were told some parachuted out," said McCormick. He and his team members ran about five miles to the accident site.

"There were mannequins in the trees and lying all around," said McCormick. "It was pretty realistic."

The team was then given a 'victim' with various 'injuries,' and an evaluator had a checklist to see if the members applied the appropriate first aid techniques. Race participants were exposed to a wide variety of mock injuries. Groups were challenged to identify and treat insect bites, treat conditions such as gangrene, trenchfoot and frost-bite, and demonstrate their ability to splint different fractures.

"Some things we had to do

were critical. We had our combat life saver bags, so we were able to start an I.V.," said McCormick. "We had to tend to various wounds on the victim, and then had to transport the mannequin back to the starting point."

After the five-mile hike back, the team had to canoe roughly two miles and respond appropriately to a different scenario.

"Now your objective was to start a fire, build a waterproof shelter and purify drinking water," said McCormick. "And you actually had to drink it."

McCormick and his team ended up in eleventh place. Not bad, given that the "Air Force One" members were all over the age of 40, while most were under the age of 30. The race usually lasts about seven hours before all teams make it to the finish line, and ends with a picnic and fellowship, followed by a night course.

180<sup>th</sup> members may have an opportunity to try their hand at a MedWar adventure race in the future.

"We are working to set up something like this for your military group and incorporating some of your Self-Aid, Buddy Care curriculum into it," said Ledrick.

# BMT LONGER FOR AIRMEN

# EIGHT-WEEK COURSE MIRRORS AEF CYCLE



Basic military training just got longer, and the man in charge says the next crop of recruits will be the toughest and most combat-ready the Air Force has ever produced.

BMT is two weeks longer

## Chief Master Sgt. William B. Gummow Senior Master Sgt. Robert Calhoon Steven E. Groner

Master Sgt. **Donald Calkins** Terry Carter Mark Cramer Terry Copic Daniel Denig Douglas Harris Micheal Sims Peter Smith

Tech. Sgt. John Gill Shamecka Harris Daniel Meyer Sara Rooks Jeremy Tussing

O T I O N S

## Staff Sgt. Timothy Noonan Jay Weir

Kevin Wise

Senior Airman Jeremy Desgrange Andrew Marburger Seth Meyer

Airman 1st Class Vanessa Wilson

than the previous six-week course. The bulk of that extra training time will focus on expeditionary skills handling, firing and caring for an M16, self-aid and buddy care, chemical warfare, and base defense. Before sewing on their first stripes, airmen will know what it's like to lug around a heavy rifle while wearing chemical gear, sleep on cots in tents and survive on Meals Readyto-Eat - experiences recruits got only a taste of before.

The structure of the new BMT is meant to mirror an Air Expeditionary Force cycle, with pre-deployment, deployment and post deployment phases. The pre-deployment phase is the longest, consuming the first five weeks of the course.

What has not changed is the introductory week zero and week one, in which airmen in-process, get assigned gear, meet their training instructors, get assigned to training flights and learn basic military skills such as military drill and ceremony, customs and courtesies, and dormitory setup.

The next three weeks - about a week more than before - will be spent primarily developing expeditionary skills and reinforcing the military skills training of the first

Week two covers weapons handling and maintenance, integrated base defense, tactical movement, firing positions and force protection. Week three focuses on self-aid and buddy care. In week four, trainees learn to counter threats such as terrorism, biological and chemical weapons and security breaches and go through the BMT obstacle course. Week five, the final week of the predeployment phase, introduces trainees to the code of conduct, combat arms training and maintenance, fighting with a pugil stick, basic leadership and mental preparation for combat.

But the centerpiece of the new BMT is the BEAST, a week spent in Basic Expeditionary Airman Skills Training. For six weeks, the entire class of more than 800 airmen heads to a new field training site on the Medina Annex at the west end of Lackland.

The BEAST site consists of four camps, each with 10 green canvas

Each camp is a self-contained unit responsible for operating and defending itself.

On the first day of BEAST, a Monday, recruits will refresh the expeditionary skills they already learned. On Tuesday through Friday, they will be in an expeditionary exercise in which they live and work as if they were at a forward operating base in the Middle East. The airmen will sleep in their tents and eat MREs, except for one hot meal a day served at a dining facility. They'll rise each morning at 4:45 a.m., receive an intelligence briefing on the threat environment, and spend the rest of the day responding to threats and contingencies.

The BEAST site includes a 1.5mile improvised explosive device trail littered with simulated roadside bombs and a mock airstrip. Airmen will learn to spot IEDs and then use the trail in training scenarios.

Week seven will focus on postdeployment training - classroom instruction about the difficulties service members might face when they get home, such as financial management, family issues and alcohol abuse. Trainees also learn about Air Force history and heritage.

The eighth and final week of training is graduation week. The newly minted airmen will be issued their dress blues, take a final written test, practice for the graduation parade and find out what career fields they'll be entering.

This is the first wholesale redesign of the course since the wars began.

The new BMT was designed to be rigorous, but the Air Force does not expect it will lead to a high washout rate. The attrition rate for BMT stands at 8.2 percent.



# HE HOMEFRONT

Family Programs Offi ce
Judy York, Wing Family Program Coordinator
Judy.york@ohtole.ang.af.mil
419-868-4550 or 1-800-495-4250 ext. 4550
Cell 419-356-5841
Available 24/7 for information, referral and emergency assistance

## 180th FW Military Teen Advisory Board has first meeting

Walking blindfolded through a path of set mouse traps with only the instructions and voice of a partner to guide you was one of the activities that the new Military Teen Advisory Board participated in at their first meeting on Sunday, Oct 26. The kick-off meeting was an opportunity for the military youth to not only get to know each other, but to learn concepts that will help them work as a team and set goals and a vision for the MTAB and the 180<sup>th</sup> youth program. Two different acting games encouraged the youth to be spontaneous and creative. And some were very creative!

The mission of the MTAB is to represent and support the diverse teen voices of the military community. Its focus is to develop ideas to help educate the community on military teen issues, implement military teen programs and encourage military teen participation in those programs. The MTAB will consist of 12 board members in grades 7-12. The board members will elect a president, vice president, treasurer, and scribe.

Some of the benefits for the MTAB members are the opportunity to meet new people and build friendships, develop team building and leadership skills, be a voice for military youth, and have fun. Colleges and scholarship programs are looking for applicants that possess the type of leadership qualities and volunteerism that MTAB will provide.

The 6 youth that attended the first meeting spent the last hour of the event brainstorming ideas for youth events, fundraising events, and community service projects. The next meeting will be Sunday, Nov 23 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The board will decorate the Christmas tree for the Children's Holiday Party, discuss the election of officers that will take place at January's meeting, and plan the first fundraiser. There is room for a few more teens to join MTAB. I Teens in grades 7-12 that are interested in helping other military youth and being a part of something bigger than themselves, may contact TSgt Pamela Thibert, Youth Military Liaison, at 419-376-8060 or Judy York at 419-868-4550. MTAB also needs adult volunteers to help provide guidance and resources. Parents interested in volunteering may also contact Pamela or Judy for more information.

## Military Appreciation Monday at the Golden Corral Restaurant

The 2008 Military Appreciation Monday dinner will be held on Monday, November 17, 2008 from 5 pm to 9 pm in all Golden Corral Restaurants. The free "thank you" dinner is available to any person who has ever served in the United States Military. If you are a veteran, retired, currently serving, in the National Guard or Reserves, you are invited to participate in Golden Corral's Military Appreciation Monday dinner. To date, Golden Corral restaurants have provided over 1.8 million free meals and contributed over \$2.53 million to the Disabled American Veterans organization.

#### Two NEW military handbooks available

Military Handbooks has announced the release of two new 2008 FREE handbooks for military personnel, the 2008 After the Military Handbook and the 2008 Veterans Healthcare Benefits Handbook.

The 2008 Veterans Healthcare Handbook is written for veterans, and gives you everything you need to know about: how to apply for healthcare, veterans service centers, choosing a facility, changing a facility, second opinions, prescriptions, dental care, chiropractic care, non-VA care, travel, POW benefits, appeals, grievances, confidentiality, financial issues, means testing, hardship determinations, waivers, medication co-payments, health insurance, listing of VA facilities, and much, much more!

The 2008 After the Military Handbook is written for military veterans and covers: transitioning to the private sector, supporting your family, finding a job that pays "top dollar", choosing between jobs with large or small companies, deciding to start your own company, maximizing the benefits of a military career, medical benefits and life insurance in the private sector, how to pay for college after you leave military service, how to retire successfully, and more.

To download your own FREE copies of the 2008 Military Handbooks, please visit: http://www.militaryhandbooks.com.

# Operation: New DoD Travel Card Issued by Citi®



## Cardholders have been sent new Government Travel Charge Cards and MUST verify receipt of the card immediately

DoD's current Government Travel Charge Card contract with Bank of America is ending soon, and all government travel cardholders have been sent new GTCCs from Citi®, the new SmartPay® 2 vendor. If you did not receive your new travel card, please notify your Agency Program Coordinator (APC) immediately.

The new GTCCs will be ready for use on November 30, 2008, after the current cards issued by Bank of America expire on November 29, 2008 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. You should verify receipt of your new travel card now to ensure that you will be able to use it on November 30, 2008. You MUST verify receipt of your card by phone or online anytime after August 15. As part of the receipt verification process, you will be asked to accept the Cardholder Agreement

Terms & Conditions. You must agree to the Terms & Conditions in order to use your new Travel Card. Failure to verify receipt may result in a closed account.

If you did not receive your new Travel Card, it may be because you have an outdated address on file. If you believe your address of record is outdated, please notify your APC immediately.

#### Traveling during the cutover

If you will be traveling during the cutover (November 29-30, 2008), you should charge all official travel expenses up to, and including, November 29, 2008, on your current Bank of America GTCC. Travel expenses incurred from 12:00 a.m. EST on November 30, 2008 should be charged to your new Citi GTCC.

#### Transition checklist for cardholders

Cardholders will need to pay all outstanding, undisputed charges on their Bank of America GTCC before November 29, 2008. No credit balances can remain on the current Bank of America GTCC after November 29, 2008. If your Bank of America GTCC has a credit balance, call the phone number on the back of the card to request that it be sent to you. After the cutover, Bank of America will continue to accept and receive payments for charges previously made on its cards.

#### What to expect

Since the new card will also be VISA branded, you'll have the same worldwide charging privileges that you currently have. Charge limits will remain the same and Agency Program Coordinators will have the authority to raise limits to meet mission requirements.

#### Links for more information

Your primary contact for transition info is your APC, Lt.Col. Rob Michalak, x4008, rob.michalak@ohtole.ang.af.mil. Cardholders can also visit <a href="www.defensetravel.dod.mil">www.defensetravel.dod.mil</a>; <a href="www.gsa.gov/smartpay">www.gsa.gov/smartpay</a>; or send questions to <a href="mailto:dtmote@dtmo.pentagon.mil">dtmote@dtmo.pentagon.mil</a> for more information.

## AMVETS and ONG partner for Veteran and Guard friendly employer website

#### By Lt. Col. Lisa Gammon

On September 11, 2008, the AMVETS in a joint partnership with the Ohio National Guard initiated a Veteran-friendly web site, <a href="https://www.ohiovetscan.com">www.ohiovetscan.com</a>.

The purpose of this website is to better serve the employment needs of Ohio's veterans, Guard members, Reservists and active duty service members. Current and former service members benefit because they now have a website that lists Veteran and Guard friendly companies. Employer's also benefits because they gain access to potential employees whose skills have been honed by honorable service to their country and state.

The website <a href="www.ohiovetscan.com">www.ohiovetscan.com</a> will be introduced in phases. Phase 1, finished September 11th, is a listing of Veteran and Guard friendly companies. The website will have links to employers' web pages and their human resource departments to provide employment vacancies and information for Veterans seeking better opportunities. Guard members can search by Ohio county or alphabetical listing of employers. Phase 2 starts on Veterans Day in November and will list employer job openings and will post resumes from Veterans, Guard, Reserve, and active duty service members. Employers looking to hire Guard members will have one location to view resumes. Phase 3 is on December 7th, Pearl Harbor Day, consisting of a mass media blitz throughout the state.

In Phase 4, employers will be able to list vacancies themselves on the interactive website and guard members will be able to add, change and delete their resumes. Until then, units that are aware of Guard-friendly employers can submit the company and point of contact information to Lt. Col. Lisa Gammon at <a href="mailto:lisa.gammon@us.army.mil">lisa.gammon@us.army.mil</a>. Guard members will also need to submit their resumes to Lt. Col. Gammon for posting to the website.

# Let's see what's buzzin'...



Photo by Senior Airman Jodi Joice, Public Affairs

Airman 1st Class Krista R. Mramor, Knowledge Operations Management Specialist, Communications Flight, was named the Top Female Physical Readiness Training Performer out of her 700-member Basic Military Training Class Aug. 8th, 2008. She also was the only female in her BMT class to receive the Fitness Excellence Award/Warhawk Level. Mramor was in the 180th Student Flight for eleven months prior to going Basic Training.

## Front cover



180th Fighter Wing leadership shake hands with departing Airmen as they leave for the 2008 AEF deployment.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Elizabeth Holliker, Public Affairs.

## Superior performers help 180th reach 110% manning



Photo by Airman 1st Class Amber Williams, Public Affairs

Col. Mark E. Bartman, Commander of the 180th Fighter Wing, awarded Airmen with a Superior Performance certivicate and Commander's Coin Nov. 2, 2008, in recognition of their outstanding support in the Recruiting and Retention field. Their hard work and dedication had directly contributed to the success of the 180th FW in meeting the Adjutant General of Ohio's goal of 110 percent manning.

Pictured from left, back row, are Bartman, Master Sgt. Michael S. Waddle, Recruiting; Tech. Sgt. Casey Cole, Education and Training; Tech. Sgt. Jason Mims, Recruiting; Senior Airman Jodi Joice, Public Affairs; Tech. Sgt. Matthew Michael, Contracting. Front row from left, Master Sgt. Jamie Brown, R.O.M.; Master Sgt. Robin Wiseman, Recruiting; Senior Airman Madeline Ruyle, Services and Staff Sgt. Melissa Hurst, Medical Administration. Not pictured: Master Sgt. George Plasencio, Recruiting; Tech. Sgt. Shamecka Harris, MPF; and Tracy Borror, Recruiting. The 180th congratulates their excellent efforts.

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impress upon us how much Congress listens to what we all have to say on matters affecting our ANG. So, please be passionate about what you do every day and let all of your elected officials know your needs and desires.

Lastly, I can't let you go without these final thoughts. Please be very careful during the holiday season as you drive to a party or grandma's house. Have a designated driver, or if you need to drive, don't drink! I want to make sure we all have the opportunity to get back together and work on some of these challenges in January 2009. Again, I thank you all for what you do and the sacrifice your families and employers make to allow you to defend this great country. I am especially proud to be your Commander during these challenging and historic times. Keep up that PMA!

Have a safe and happy holiday season.

Vacancies

Please see the Air Force Portal for vacancies: <a href="http://www.ong.ohio.gov/jobs/">http://www.ong.ohio.gov/jobs/</a>

# Together We Serve



180th Fighter Wing Dining Out on March 21, 2009 at The Holiday Inn French Quarter in Perrysburg.

Families are encouraged to bring their children and stay the night. Baby-sitting services will be provided during the meal and ceremony.

Tickets are on sale to unit members from September to January 2009. Retirees and other special guests may purchase tickets in January 2009.

**Ticket Contacts:** 

MG - CMSgt Boyer FW/OG-SSgt Rohrs MSG - MSgt Rodriquez and MSgt Madison MDG - SrA Wonderly

SSgt and Below - \$25 TSgt - SMSgt and Lt - Capt - \$35 CMSgt and Majors and Above - \$50

# FAMILY and MILITARY APPRECIATION FUN NIGHT

featuring

# "JUST KIDDIN' AROUND"

with Chuck and Elisa Hage in concert

Saturday, November 15, beginning at 6:00 pm



## **Wolf Creek YMCA**

2100 S. Holland-Sylvania Road Maumee, OH 419-866-9622





## 180th Annual Children's Holiday Party

# Thursday, December 4 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

We are planning for a full house, but it would help us out if you would register your family in advance. Flower Hospital Surgical Staff will again be providing an Italian supper with plenty of hotdogs for the kids. We will serve supper from 5:30 to 7:00. Santa will be available for pictures and children's wish lists from 6:00 to 8:00. This is an open house type event.

Register early at www.guardfamily.org or email your questions to Tech Sgt. Angela Webb at angela.webb@ohtole.ang.af.mil

## 10 quick facts about the new post 911 G.I. bill

- 1. The Montgomery GI Bill is not going away and the rules governing MGIB have not been changed.
- **2.** If you left active duty anytime before September 11, 2001, your GI Bill benefits have not been changed and you do not qualify for the Post 911 GI Bill.
- **3.** The new Post 911 GI Bill does not go into effect until August 1, 2009. Any classes taken before that date will be paid under the MGIB payment plan.
- **4.** The New Post 911 GI Bill is NOT retroactive. It will only cover courses taken after July 31, 2009.
- **5.** Using the MGIB now will not disqualify you from switching to the Post 911 GI Bill later.
- **6.** If you elect to switch to the new Post 911 GI Bill, your remaining months of MGIB benefits will be switched to the new program.
- **7.** Once you switch to the new Post 911 GI Bill you cannot switch back.
- **8.** The ability to transfer your MGIB benefits has not changed. **9.** Several factors determine how much of a benefit you will receive from the VA under the Post 911 GI Bill.
- 10. The Post 911 GI Bill housing stipend is only payable to veterans and members of the Guard and Reserve who are taking classes on campus and are considered by the school to be three-quarter or full-time students. Remember, only the Dept. of Veterans Affairs can answer your person and specific benefit questions. Call them at 1-888-GIBILL-1 if you have questions about your GI Bill eligibility.

Please visit http://military-education.military.com/2008/09/10-quick-facts.html for the full article.

## You are Cordially Invited.....

The 180th Chaplain's office would like to invite all 180th servicemembers and their family members in the local area to attend a Combined Candlelight Worship Service of the 180 Fighter Wing December 7, at 9:30 a.m.in the Baker Building. If you do not have a dependent I.D. card, please email Lt. Col. Edgar Thompson at edgar.thompson@ohtole.ang.af.mil so that he may alert the main gate of your arrival. The 555th Air Force Band of the Great Lakes will provide seasonal entertainment.

# STINGER

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180th Fighter Wing 2660 South Eber Road, Swanton, Ohio 43558-9645

#### Command

Commander
Col. Mark E. Bartman
Vice Commander
Lt. Col. Edgar Thompson

### **Public Affairs Staff**

Public Affairs Offi cers
Lt. Col. Thomas Gee, Capt. Katherine
Cherolis and 2nd Lt. Tiffany Pasker
Editor Tech. Sgt. Annette Kornasiewicz
Photos 180th Public Affairs
IM Staff Sgt. Tim Andrassy

#### **Deadline**

Deadline for the next Stinger is the Saturday of the UTA @ 4 p.m. Hand deliver articles to the Public Affairs Offi ce in Building 114 or e-mail:

180.stinger@ohtole.ang.af.mil.
For more information call ext. 4014 during the UTA.

## About the Stinger

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